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have always been oceans. These lands in all probability were, for the most part, volcanic islands or summits of volcanic ranges, for of this nature are all the islands over the interior of either ocean that are not of coral origin."

The extracts we have given, rather than any words of the reviewer, attest the clear and comprehensive manner in which the author treats of a difficult and abstruse theme. The publishers have issued the volume in a most attractive style.

MAN IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.*—We are assured by the modest author of these lectures that their publication was the result of "the extraordinary favor which the public has hitherto manifested towards all the literary productions of the author without exception." They seem to be a digest, with liberal quotations, of the writings of Huxley, Schaffhausen, Vogt, Haeckel and others, on man and his origin. The main facts as to the antiquity of man are given, with a chapter on his simian origin, while the future of man occupies the last third of the book. We have not been able to find that the author is an original investigator in anthropology, and with his hearty contempt for philosophy and pity for any one who believes in such infantile notions forsooth as the immortality of the soul and the existence of God, we doubt whether his superficial mode of treatment is calculated to win the regard of his readers to anthropological studies.

The crude and sophomoric style of the third chapter is more subdued in those on the antiquity and origin of man. But even here in matters of detail the author is not invariably reliable. He accepts unhesitatingly the calculation as to the age of the portions of the human skeletons found in the "coral rock" of Florida, though it has been stated in this journal (vol. ii, p. 343, Oct., 1868) by M. De Pourtales, the original discoverer of the specimens, that they were not from a coral formation, but that he took them from a "fresh water sandstone on the shore of Lake Monroe, associated with fresh water shells of species still living in the lake. No date can be assigned to the formation of that deposit at least, from present observations." It has also been questioned whether the age of the bones found in the cypress swamps of Louisiana is so

* *Man in the Past, Present and Future.* A popular account of the results of recent scientific research as regards the Origin, Position and Prospects of the Human Race. From the German of Dr. L. Büchner, by W. S. Dallas. London 1872. Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott and Co. 8vo, pp. 363.

well determined as Dr. Büchner seems to think. On the other hand he does not seem acquainted with the discovery of the human skull under Table Mountain in California, though these remains are probably more ancient than any human relics yet found in Europe.

Otherwise the work is a good digest of the leading facts and arguments on the scientific topics of which he treats, which the ordinary reader will not find in any available work.

The translation certainly does not gloss over the literary crudities of the original, while the book abounds in gross typographical blunders.

THE BIRDS OF THE TRES MARIAS AND SOCORRO ISLANDS.*—The Tres Marias form a group of several small, heavily wooded islands, situated off the Mexican coast, opposite the port of San Blas and about one hundred miles distant from that point. Socorro, the largest of the Revillagigedo group, is a barren volcanic island which rises abruptly to the height of two thousand feet, about three hundred and fifty miles southwest of the Tres Marias, and about the same distance from the Mexican coast. From their small size and their distance from the mainland, the fauna of these islands presents features of more than usual interest. Under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the Boston Society of Natural History, Col. Grayson made several voyages to these islands for the purpose of exploring their natural history. In the present paper we have some of the results of Col. Grayson's labor, prepared from his notes and collections by Mr. George N. Lawrence. The paper contains copious and valuable notes respecting most of the species mentioned, with quite a full account of the physical characteristics of the islands. The Tres Marias list embraces fifty-two species, collected by Col. Grayson in 1865, 1866 and 1867. In general character the avian fauna of these islands closely resembles that of the adjoining main, though several strongly marked insular races are easily recognized, and is hence decidedly tropical. The only northern United States species recorded are such as have a wide range of distribution or are semitropical, the majority being raptorial birds. But one aquatic species (the sooty tern) is given,

* On the Physical Geography and Natural History of the Islands of the Tres Marias and of Socorro, off the western Coast of Mexico. By Col. Andrew J. Grayson. Edited by Geo. N. Lawrence, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. xiv, pp. 261-303. April, 1872. (Read June 7, 1871).